MR. SPEAKER :—" I cannot prevent the Hon. Minister from answering any question in Tamil. Moreover, I cannot translate his answer in English."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" We want that at least a gist of the answer should be given to us in English especially when it involves a matter of policy. Otherwise, there is no use of our sitting here. That is my humble suggestion to the Chair."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Even previously when questions were put in the regional languages, the Ministers who knew that particular regional language answered them in that language. But, since a resolution was adopted by the Opposition that even persons who knew English should put questions in the regional languages alone, we began answering all questions in English. Now that the position has changed, we thought that when a question is put in a particular regional language, if the Hon. Minister concerned knows that language he should answer it in that language. That is the understanding we have arrived at."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question No. 592."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" On a point of information, Sir . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This is not the time to ask for information."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" On a point of order, Sir, I wish to tell the Hon. Leader of the House that we did not object to his speaking in Tamil or any other language. What the hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar wants to know is a gist of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, in English so that the hon. Members who do not know Tamil may be in a position to understand it. That is the point, Sir."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Till now, we were answering in English. There are a large number of Members who do not know English and who cannot understand English. They did not object to our answering questions in English. I do not know why the hon. Member Sri Narayanan Nambiar should raise an objection now which is backed up by the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition."

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—*cont.*

Reconstruction of Valkai bridge on Taliparamba-Chengali road, North Malabar.

* 592 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) since when the Valkai bridge on Taliparamba-Chengali road, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar has been in a state of disrepair ;

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(b) whether the Government have any proposal to repair the bridge; and

(c) if so, when the repairing work will begin?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMI PADAYACHI :—" (a) to (c) Certain beams of the bridge collapsed on the 7th June 1954. The work of reconstructing the bridge is expected to be taken up by the district board within a month."

Extent of Government forest area in Pudukkotta division of Tiruchirappalli district.

* 593 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of Government forest area in the Pudukkotta division of the Tiruchirappalli district; and

(b) the acreage reserved for game purposes for the Raja of Pudukkotta?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) 55,276 acres.

" (b) 32,312 acres."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Has any condition been stipulated, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. Assurances were given to the Raja of Pudukkotta by the Government of India under the Merger Agreement that certain areas will be left as game-preserve areas."

Expenditure on the construction of roads and loans granted for digging wells.

* 594 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether any loan or aid was given by the Government in 1952 to villagers in rural areas who built roads and dug wells in their areas?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes. The Government spent a sum of Rs. 2,21,218–6–6 for construction of roads and granted loans amounting to Rs. 10,76,383–6–0 for digging or deepening wells in the rural areas of the State in 1952."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" இவ்வளவு பணத்தைச் செலவு செய்தும் எத்தனை ரோடுகள் போடப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன, எத்தனை கிணறுகள் வெட்டப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. எந்த ரோடாவது அல்லது கிணராவது சேரிகளில் வெட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்பதை கனம் அமைச்சர் அறிவிப்பார்களா ?" 11-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I cannot answer that question off-hand. The present question relates to the amount spent. If the hon. Member wants details, let him put a separate question and I will be able to answer it."